

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/995,393

Examiner

Joseph S. Del Sole

Applicant(s)

COURNOYER ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/5/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17 and 22-29.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 November 2001 and 11 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. 20040112. |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. David Wisz on 1/12/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

in the claims:

cancel claims 18-21.

The following is the complete claim listing:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A semi-rigid mold member, comprising:
a first ply, comprising an elastomeric sheet rubber and a release film;
a second ply adjacent said first ply; and
a sieve member adjacent said first ply and said second ply, said sieve member adjacent said elastomeric sheet rubber opposite said release film.
2. (ORIGINAL) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 1, wherein said sieve member is embedded in said first ply.
3. (ORIGINAL) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 1, wherein said first ply and said second ply include a fluoroelastomer material.
4. (ORIGINAL) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 1, wherein said sieve member includes a stainless steel screen.

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5. (ORIGINAL) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 4, wherein said screen provides approximately 60 micron retention.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 1, wherein said release film comprises an FEP layer adjacent said first ply and opposite said second ply.

7. (ORIGINAL) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 6, further comprising a third ply adjacent said second ply, and a fourth ply adjacent said third ply.

8. (ORIGINAL) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 7, further comprising a rigid reinforcement insert between said third ply and said fourth ply.

9. (ORIGINAL) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 8, wherein said reinforcement insert includes a metallic sheet.

10. (ORIGINAL) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 7, wherein said third ply and said fourth ply include a fiber reinforced fluoroelastomer material.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composite molding apparatus, comprising:
a rigid mold member; and

a semi-rigid mold member matable with said rigid mold member, said semi rigid mold member comprising a first ply located directly opposite said rigid mold member, said first ply comprising a sieve member, an elastomeric sheet rubber, and a release film, said release film and said sieve member located adjacent said elastomeric sheet rubber, said release film facing said rigid mold member.

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12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite molding apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said semi-rigid mold member comprises a second ply, said sieve member adjacent said first ply and said second ply.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite molding apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein said second ply comprises a fluoroelastomer material.

14. (ORIGINAL) The composite molding apparatus as recited in claim 12, further comprising a third ply adjacent said second ply, and a fourth ply adjacent said third ply.

15. (ORIGINAL) The composite molding apparatus as recited in claim 14, further comprising a rigid reinforcement insert between said third ply and said fourth ply.

16. (ORIGINAL) The composite molding apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein said rigid reinforcement insert includes a metallic plate.

17. (ORIGINAL) The composite molding apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein said third ply and said fourth ply include a fiber reinforced fluoroelastomer material.

18-21. (CANCELLED)

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A semi-rigid mold member, comprising:
a first ply;
a second ply adjacent said first ply; and
a sieve member adjacent said first ply and said second ply, said sieve member embedded in said first ply.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite molding apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said sieve member is embedded in said first ply.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 1, wherein said elastomeric sheet rubber material comprises an unreinforced Fluoroelastomeric sheet rubber.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 1, wherein said second ply comprises an unreinforced Fluoroelastomeric sheet rubber.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite molding apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said elastomeric sheet rubber material comprises an unreinforced Fluoroelastomeric sheet rubber.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The semi-rigid mold member as recited in claim 1, wherein said first ply locates said sieve member a predetermined distance from said release film, said predetermined distance related to a plurality of protruding pins within a core located between a first composite prepreg and a second composite prepreg.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite molding apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said first ply locates said sieve member a predetermined distance from said release film, said predetermined distance related to a plurality of protruding pins within a core located between a first composite prepreg and a second composite prepreg formed within a cavity defined by said rigid mold member and said semi-rigid mold member.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite molding apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said sieve member provides approximately 60 micron retention.

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2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the embodiment as discussed in the Office action of 11/04/03 and further fails to teach a mold member having a first ply being an elastomeric sheet rubber and a release film; a second ply adjacent the first ply; and a sieve member adjacent the first ply and the second ply and also adjacent the elastomeric sheet rubber but opposite the release film.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Joseph S. Del Sole whose telephone number is (571) 272-1130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Wanda Walker, can be reached at (571) 272-1151. The official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for both non-after finals and for after finals.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Joseph S. Del Sole
J.S.D.

January 12, 2004

Robert Davis

ROBERT DAVIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300-1722

1/12/04